Right to decommission Dam

2312. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law empowering State Governments the right to decommission a Dam, if found unsafe by draining out the water stored in its reservoir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not in what manner such unsafe Dams would be looked after?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) "The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act 2003" passed by the State legislature empowers the State Government to decommission a dam.

(b) This Act provides for constitution of a Dam Safety Authority, which is to be headed by a retired Judge of the High Court. Other members of the Dam Safety Authority will be eminent specialist in the field, officers from the various State Government Departments and Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Government of India. Relevant provision of this Act regarding decommissioning of dam are as under:

"62(e) To advise Government to suspend the functioning of any dam if the public safety so demands;

62(f) To examine the precariousness of any dam, in public interest and to submit its recommendations including decommissioning of dam to the Government;

62(5) The disbanding, construction or reconstruction of any dam shall be made only after obtaining a report in that regard from the Authority."

(c) Does not arise.

Flood protection in Assam

2313. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner flood protection of Brahmaputra, and its tributaries

will be ensured through the proposal on interlinking of rivers; and

(b) the sepcific plan, if any, on Brahmaputra under this national project showing benefits to be derived by Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Interlinking of rivers under National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared by Central Government envisages construction of storage dams. The storage dams reduce the saverity of floods and flood damages considerably. As per preliminary studies done by National Water Development Agency (NWDA), the flood peaks are estimated to be reduced by about 20—30% in Brahmaputra basin.

(b) Under the NPP, Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link project has been identified for preparation of Feasibility Report. As per the preliminary studies done by NWDA, irrigation benefits to the extent of 2.08 lakh hectare to Assam State in the districts of Goalpar, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Barpeta is envisaged under the link.

Irrigation projects in Maharashtra

†2314. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in the State of Maharashtra which got foreign assistance;

(b) the quantum of foreign assistance received during the last three years, plan-wise;

(c) the quantum of amount spent on the irrigation projects in the State during the said period;

(d) the number of irrigation proposal pending with Government and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the said proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Two minor irrigation projects, namely, Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.